

# HUNGER OF THE HUNGRY

ABOUT 24,000 PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY FROM HUNGER OR HUNGER-RELATED CAUSES AND THREE-QUARTERS OF THE DEATHS ARE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE. HOWEVER, THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE.

*By Barbara Nicotra*

Predictably, the new millennium is seeing a huge change in global hunger in terms of malnutrition. Even now, worldwide nearly 1bln people are fighting against death because of food shortage, nonetheless, according to 2015 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics, “*The world produces enough food to feed everyone.*” What a paradox! Yet, it is so.

The reasons why people border on death despite there being enough food for everyone are manifold, such as bad global economy management, conflicts, world population and climate change, not to mention the hunger itself. Thanks to those reasons, in the world, there are hundreds of millions of undernourished people whose prevalence per country in 2014 is illustrated (in perc.) in the infographic A below. The main noticeable features are Africa with 20.5, which has the highest percentage of undernourished and Latin America and Caribbean with the lowest 6.1.

## DEEP INEQUALITY

This is the consequence of the fact that worldwide, as it is well-known, there is no financial fairness since economic power is always held by a few people who act on behalf of those who, legally or tyrannically, do not have the right to decide. Consequently, those few people manage a vast quantity of money, often pocketing a large part of it. This behaviour produces a strong inequality between poor and rich people, which is becoming larger and larger, especially speaking at a world level. Actually, as it can be clearly seen in the video of [TheRulesOrg](#), there is an unbridgeable gap between poor and rich countries caused by tax avoidance, the debt service that developing countries have to pay to rich countries and the trade rules imposed by the latter. Of course, capitalist countries give aid to developing countries

Infographic A



Prevalence (%) of undernourishment around the world 1990 - 2014

but, even if it is a large quantity of money, this is a small proportion compared with the wealth that it is annually ‘stolen’ by the richest.

## WAR’S ACTION

Furthermore, the most terrible cause of hunger and poverty are conflicts - which is strictly connected with the increase of world population - where survivors have to deal with destruction and death. The outcomes of a war’s action for who survive are also lack of infrastructure, which means lack of transport service to receive food supply and general aid from other countries. The number of human beings is crucially important as the more they increase, the more difficult becomes living near to one another as the vital space per person decreases and intolerance and racism starts.

## INHOSPITABLE WEATHER

Climate change is another negative aspect of world indigence, seen through the words of Public Policy Officer Environment Sarah la Trobe, “*Without attention to assisting poor communities adapt to climate change, the effects of global warming will continue to exacerbate poverty through increased extreme weather events, food and water insecurity, ill health, loss of forests and biodiversity, displacement of people, social and political instability and economic decline.*”

## VICIOUS CYCLE

The signs of hunger are fleshless bones, weakness and low levels of energy, which reduces mental functioning. When a person does not eat enough food - nutrients and vitamins and other ingredients which are vital for the health of the body – they do not have the strength to work or study, which leads to even greater poverty and hunger.

## REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

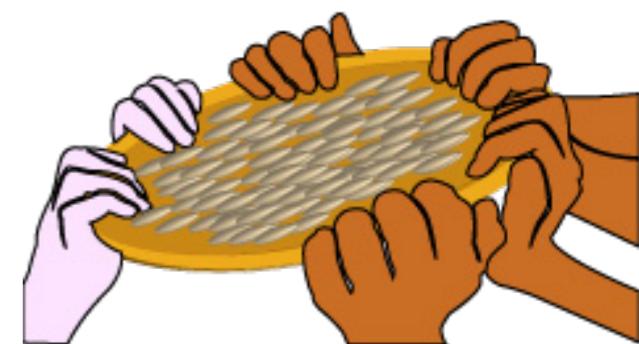
However, although hunger is still a global scourge, it has done so much over the last fourteen years to defeat it as the infographic B shows. Here it is clear that the number of the undernourished in the world, who was 19% in 1990, fell considerably to 11% in 2014. Likely, the use of treatments of severe acute malnutrition has been highly significant for people lives, especially for children’s. The best known are RUTF and PLUMPY’NUT bars, both are made with ingredients which include peanuts, skimmed milk powder, sugar, vegetable oil, vitamins and micronutrients, each bar has a quantity of calories of a meal. These ideas are drastically changing the future of poor people thanks to a miracle as these bars, literally, bring dying children back to life, as it is shown on the video of [Save the Children](#).

Hence, with the use of these treatments and more education - which “break(s) out of the cycle of poverty that causes hunger” ([lonweb.org](#)) - global hunger can be defeated. This is a miracle to feel to be able to express these conception, this is not anymore a dream but can become a reality. Eventually.

# World

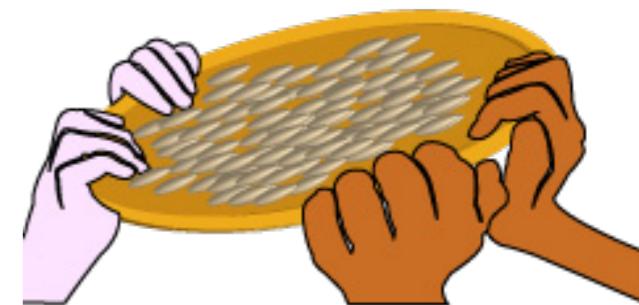
Number and percentage of undernourished persons 1990-2014

1990 1015mln



19%

2014 805mln



11%